

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CANBER 03973 170908Z

11  
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 PM-07 INR-10 IO-13 EUR-25 NEA-10

RSC-01 RSR-01 /097 W  
----- 104245

R 170755Z JUL 73  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

S E C R E T CANBERRA 3973

STADIS

E.O. 11652 : GDS  
TAGS: SEATO  
SUBJECT: SEATO MILITARY TRAINING EXERCISE PX -49

REF: STATE 137983

EMBASSY CONCERNED TO NOTE IMPLICATION IN REFTEL  
THAT AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD REACT ADVERSELY  
IF SEATO EXERCISE PX-49 WERE TO GO ON WITHOUT ITS  
PARTICIPATION. WE VERY MUCH REGRET IF WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT  
MADE IT CLEAR, BUT AUSTRALIAN DECISION WAS EXCLUSIVELY  
TO WITHDRAW AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION FOR REASONS REPORTED  
TO DEPARTMENT. AT NO TIME DID AUSTRALIANS ASK US TO ENSURE  
THAT EXERCISE WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE.

AUSTRALIAN CONCERN THAT EXERCISE IS SCHEDULED  
TOO CLOSE TO DATE OF WHITLAM'S PROJECTED TRIP TO PRC MAY  
OR MAY NOT BE REASONABLE. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT PRC IS  
NOT GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT SEATO. INDEED , AUSTRALIAN  
LIBERAL OPPOSITION LEADER SNEDDEN, WHO RECENTLY RETURNED  
FROM VISIT TO PRC, HAS TOLD PRESS THAT CHINESE LEADERS  
BE MET HAD EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING AND APPROVAL OF U.S. MILITARY  
PRESENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. TIMING OF EXERCISE SO CLOSE  
TO DATE OF SEATO COUNCIL AND REVIEW OF SEATO ACTIVITY MAY

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HAVE BEEN UNFORTUNATE, BUT WE DO NOT FEEL THIS IS REASON, IN

ITSELF, TO OPPOSE EXERCISE AS SUCH.

DECISION FOR U.S. TO PARTICIPATE OR NOT IS FOR  
DEPARTMENT TO MAKE, AND WE DO NOT WISH TO ARGUE POINT ONE  
WAY OR THE OTHER. WE DO NOT RPT NOT THINK THAT AUSTRALIANS  
WILL BE OVERLY CONCERNED IF EXERCISE WERE HELD AND IF  
U.S. PARTIPATED.  
GREEN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** worrelsw  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973CANBER03973  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS GREEN  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** CANBERRA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 STATE 137983  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** worrelsw  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SEATO MILITARY TRAINING EXERCISE PX -49  
**TAGS:** MARR, AS, SEATO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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